

CONGRESS CALLED FOR APRIL 2

GERMANY MAY BEGIN ACTIVE WAR AGAINST UNITED STATES AT ONCE

President Has Yielded to Demand From Nation That He Act.

ADMINISTRATION A UNIT

Two Hundred Americans Have Been Sacrificed to Ruthlessness.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21.—President Wilson recognizing that Germany practically is making war on the United States on the seas, today called Congress to assemble in extraordinary session on April second to deal with the situation.

The purpose of the session, now called two weeks earlier than the date first set, as announced in the President's proclamation is to receive a communication from the chief executive on "grave questions of international policy." The President in his address to Congress will detail how Germany practically has been making war on the United States by ruthless destruction of American lives and ships on the high seas in contravention of all laws of nations and of humanity.

Congress is expected to pass a resolution declaring that a state of war has existed between the United States and Germany for some time. Such a resolution in itself will not be a declaration of war in a technical sense, although practically it will amount to the same thing. As a consequence the United States will take further steps to protect its interests on the high seas and elsewhere against the warlike acts of Germany, and whether in actual state of war will come to exist in its full sense will depend on the future acts of the Imperial German government.

Since last Sunday when three American ships were sunk off the British Isles in quick succession with loss of American lives bringing the total number of Americans lost through German submarine operations to more than 200 the President and all his advisers have recognized that a state of war existed. From all parts of the country have come calls for immediate summoning of Congress in extraordinary session.

Although the President by provision of the Constitution must leave it to Congress to make any practical declaration of war such advice as have come to the White House from Chambers of Commerce, governors of states, public officials and many hundreds of citizens have contained statements of support of such a policy in the fullest. The cabinet which used the move on the President at yesterday's session is described by the members as having been more thoroughly united than it has been on any other question that has come before it. The nation now actually comes to the point, which all the history of centuries indicated must necessarily follow the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany February 3.

When the President on that day handed to Count von Bernstorff his passports and notified Congress that he had severed diplomatic relations at once with the Imperial German government the United States was placed in a position where all the precedents of centuries were pressing it toward war.

All official Washington openly acknowledged that nothing less than German abandonment of the newly announced campaign of submarine ruthlessness would prevent it and no one here supposed that Germany would change her determination.

All the allied nations openly gave indications of their belief that the United States soon would be involved in the war and that possibility was recognized in Germany before the submarine campaign was announced when Foreign Minister Zimmermann working through Count von Bernstorff and the German minister in Mexico attempted to unite Japan and Mexico in an alliance to make war on the United States.

Plans for the army are not so fully matured. It is believed, however, that President Wilson will recognize the possibility of army participation in war when he addresses Congress by discussing the necessity of universal military training.

In a tentative way plans for marshalling the full strength of the regular army, National Guards and the raising of a volunteer army of 500,000 have been worked out in the army war college. The volunteer army of 500,000 is planned as a nucleus of what eventually would be an army of 3,000,000 and would be assembled in training camps.

With knowledge that the United States is practically certain to declare a state of war existing many officials believe that Germany may begin warlike operations against the United States in fuller sense. Although the Hague convention of 1907,

President's Proclamation

"Whereas public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 noon on the second day of April, 1917, to receive a communication by the executive on grave questions of national policy.

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the capitol in the City of Washington on April second at 12 noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America the 21st day of March in the year of our Lord 1917 and of the independence of the United States the 141st.

to which both the United States and Germany are signatories, declare that hostilities shall not begin without formal notice to belligerents as well as neutrals it is recognized that the Hague treaties have been so openly disregarded during the war in Europe that no compliance with them may be expected with any confidence. Before the Hague convention there was ample precedent for beginning of hostilities without formal declaration. In the war with Mexico General Taylor's forces were over the Rio Grande and two battles had been fought before a formal declaration of war was made. Japan struck Russia before formal declaration of war had reached Russian capital although one day previously the Japanese ambassador had notified the Russian foreign office that Japan reserved liberty of action in protecting her interests. The precedents of history show that the great majority of the world's conflicts have begun before formal declarations of war were made.

CHRIST CHURCH HAS HANDSOME NEW FLAG

Patriotic Spirit is Spreading Among the Churches of the City.

A handsome American flag four by six feet in size made of taffeta silk, each strip sewed separately, with the stars in the field hand embroidered, handsomely edged with fold fringe mounted on a massive oak staff surmounted by a gold American eagle, has been purchased by the congregation of Christ Episcopal church and will be used by the vested choir of that church in its processional and recessional at each of the Sunday services. A standard bearer will bear Old Glory in front of the choir and it will be placed during the services at a conspicuous place in the front of the church auditorium. The flag was received yesterday by the A. G. Martin book store and is on display in the show windows of that store. It is one of the handsomest flags ever brought to this city.

In one of the local churches for some time Old Glory has been suspended from the front of the church altar and the patriotic sentiment is rapidly spreading throughout the city. In one church on last Sunday when the Star Spangled Banner was played by the organist the entire congregation with one accord arose to its feet and stood during the rendition of the patriotic air.

SPRING FASHION SHOW TOMORROW

Some Unusual Attractions Are Promised by the Leading Merchants.

The annual spring fashion show will be an event in the city tomorrow which will draw to the business district, representatives from every home in the city and from surrounding towns. The majority of the merchants of the city will participate in the event, consequently all lines of spring merchandise will be displayed which will include the "last minute" products of the manufacturers and wholesalers. Local buyers, recently returned from the East, promise something unusually attractive in all lines.

Miss Virginia Reed, of Terra Alta, was the guest yesterday of Miss Mary Greer en route to her home from Morgantown where she had been the guest of friends.

O'DONNELL MINE TO BE REOPENED SOON

Output Will be Sent to Market on the Monongahela Railway.

After having been closed for seventeen years, the old O'Donnell mine opposite the South Side of Fairmont, will be opened soon by the Consolidation Coal Company. A branch line from the Monongahela railway will be laid to the mine and all the production of the opening will be handled on that railroad.

The mine when entirely opened up is expected to employ approximately 150 men and will be one of the important industries operating inside the city. In the days when the mine was in operation, it was one of the favorites of the region with the miners and many of these old timers are expected to come back.

When the O'Donnell opening was originally operated its output was loaded on barges and floated down the Monongahela to its markets. It will be known henceforward as Consolidation mine No. 57 and will be opened as soon as workmen can get the workings in condition.

ARRANGE SCHEDULE FOR VALLEY GEM

Sailings Here Will be Monday and Thursday Mornings.

The Valley Gem is expected to arrive early this evening and, according to reports from Pittsburgh, she has a good sized cargo on board. She will start on the return trip at 8:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Now that the river has returned to normal a regular schedule has been worked out for the Gem. This will be a great convenience to shippers as they can make calculations when freight will be received and when they will have it at the wharf in order to get it taken away.

The packet will leave Fairmont on Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 o'clock and will leave Pittsburgh in the afternoons of Tuesday and Friday at 5 o'clock.

Yesterday calls went out for the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Fairmont, Morgantown and Pittsburgh Packet company, the corporation that owns the Gem. This meeting will hold Tuesday morning of next week. Directors will be elected and other business will be transacted.

No Discrimination Against Small Mine

That local small coal operators engaged in what is known as "team track" operating and who last week saw their coal squeezed out of existence by a rate ruling of the Pennsylvania railroad which was to have been followed by the Baltimore and Ohio, can still operate on a safe basis, is the result of a ruling of the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission yesterday.

The new rates proposed by the Pennsylvania applied only to coal loaded over tipples having track connection with the line on which the shipment originated. This would have killed off hundreds of Pennsylvania small operators and its being copied by the Baltimore and Ohio would have eliminated a number of the local men from the coal business.

LUTHER LOWE'S THIRD ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE WINS

Was Second Man to Use Electric Light Wire as Noose.

HAD FINANCIAL TROUBLE

Was Well Known and Well Liked in This City.

Luther Lowe, well known and generally liked automobile agent, who for the past year or so has had offices and apartments in the McCrory building, killed himself sometime this morning by hanging. He was found hanging to a tree on the farm of Dr. W. H. Sands and cut down by Sheriff Glover, Ed. Sinek, Elaine Boggs, Tom Henderson, Justice of the Peace M. R. Musgrove, who as soon as they received word that a man hanging to a tree was visible from the Hillcrest road summoned a taxi and sped immediately to the scene. At 10:30 this morning the body was lying in the morgue of R. L. Cunningham, parts of it still warm. This, according to physicians, was an indication that Lowe committed the deed after dawn today.

The suicide, county officials said, was due to financial troubles. Lowe has had many reverses in the past six months and his friends claim this has brought about a big change which resulted in the action taken this morning. Though he had some coal land and a far min this county he was unable to realize anything on them and he was pressed for immediate funds.

He went about ending his life in a very methodical manner. The death by hanging was his third attempt in the past three days. It was proven at his rooms in the McCrory building this morning that the first attempt to end his life by the gas route. In the bed room at his apartment there is a chandelier with two places for gas lights and two for electric lights. When the room was broken into this morning, the electric lights were burning. Where there formerly was a gas mantle and a globe there remained the gas pipe exposed from which large volumes of gas had flowed during yesterday. On the other gas connection there was a rubber hose attached to a hot plate. This had been cut. This was yesterday morning. The gas filled the McCrory building and there was an investigation to find the source of it. It was escaping from Lowe's room through a broken glass in the transom. This effort to end his life failed Lowe and he shut the gas off.

About this time the Union dentists in the McCrory building ventured the conjecture that it was probably the gas being used by them that the occupants of the other offices smelled. As the gas soon passed away no more was thought of the matter until this morning. The penknife which Lowe used to cut the rubber hose connection was found on the wash stand in his room. A Bible opened at St. Luke was on the reading table. It is the opinion of Sheriff Glover that while Lowe was attempting to end his life via the gas route he was reading the Bible.

No notes of any kind were found in the room. A trunk locked, was left locked until the arrival of some of the relatives. Friends of Lowe's state that they have often gone to his room and found him bent over the Bible reading it and apparently much engrossed in it.

The second attempt is said to have been along about six o'clock when gas again began to permeate the offices of the McCrory building. None of the physicians or attorneys with offices in the building knew anything of this second attempt, but persons going to and from Lowe's office claim they could detect the gas.

During the afternoon yesterday Harvey Lanham and Will Billingslea tried to get into the office of Lowe and found one of the offices there and walked along the roof on the next building and saw Lowe in bed apparently sleeping. At this time there was no mention made these two that gas had been escaping in the building and they finding Lowe asleep did not bother him. Just previous to the time the second attempt is said to have been made, Lowe was talking to George Debolt on the streets and according to Debolt seemed in very good spirits. This was the last time Lowe was seen until found dead this morning.

Lowe was aged 46 and in good health of good constitution and had a circle within 200 yards of the Ohio river, in which he was known was always regarded as a good fellow. Though he is said to have hung himself because

Charles Romont, Uncle Sam's Smallest Soldier



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Charles Romont is the smallest human target in Uncle Sam's military service. He is a native of Louisiana and enlisted recently in San Francisco. Romont was accepted for service only after telegraphic permission was obtained from the War department at Washington. He is 5 feet, one half inch tall, weighs 113 pounds, and to cap it all is red headed. Service regulations prohibit the enlistment of any men under 5 feet 4 inches tall. He is now at Angel Island and is being taught the life of a soldier. He will be in training for twenty-five days and will then be sent to the Philippine Islands for service. He enlisted in the infantry. He is quite proud of the singular distinction he enjoys and is just full of patriotism and a liking for adventure.

known to be connected with very wealthy relatives. His home is in Lovettsville and he has a brother there. The relatives have been notified and will be here tonight to make arrangements for the funeral.

Lowe used an electric light wire of the same type as that used by Reuben Anderson last week when the latter hanged himself in the court house basement.

GERMAN FORCES STILL FALL BACK

French Armies Are Almost at the Gates of St. Quentin Today.

St. Quentin, reputed headquarters of the German Emperor and his general staff for the two years following the battle of the Marne and scene of a great French defeat in the war of 1870, is today within sight of the French infantry who are following fast on the heels of the retreating German army. Twelve miles to the south French troops are also looking down upon LaFere and are within reach of the German heavy guns if the invaders have really elected to hold the famous Hindenburg line running from Lille to Laon.

So far there is no evidence that the German retreat has halted such facts as are known indicating the contrary. La Fere is reported to be one of the corner stones of the Hindenburg line, yet General Nivelle has been able to occupy Tergnier, less than two miles from La Fere, apparently without encountering serious resistance. Tergnier is an important railroad junction from which three roads branch out, one to La Fere, a second southwest to Noyon and a third northwest to St. Quentin.

Even more significant is the fact that the British advancing on the north against Cambrai and other vital points on the Hindenburg line have seen incendiary fires blazing in the rear of that town.

Finders Bee Tree in River. HUNTINGTON, W. VA., March 21.—Capt. W. H. Shaffer, foreman in charge of a crew of lumberjacks, employed by Crane & Company, caught a "bee" tree floating down the Guyan-dotte river. The tree was drained and placed in the sun and the bees soon began making money. The tree, which was really a limb, was caught within 200 yards of the Ohio river. The colony of bees has been transferred to a hive and will be saved.

SAYS HIGH COURT CAN MAKE STATE PAY

Virginia's Attorney General Files Brief in Debt Case.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21.—Attorney General John Garland Pollard, of Virginia, in a brief filed Monday, declares the decrees of the Supreme Court of the United States "will be little better than waste paper" if the contention of West Virginia is sustained that the court has no authority to compel it to pay the \$13,000,000 judgment rendered in favor of Virginia in adjusting the old Virginia debt controversy. Mr. Pollard's brief was in defense of the constitutional powers of the Supreme Court to compel one state to pay its financial obligations to another state.

Virginia's chief law officer sharply repudiated the attitude of West Virginia in refusing to take steps to obey the mandate of the highest court of the land. He declared that the state furnished what was perhaps the first instance in the country history where one of the great commonwealths of the Union had repudiated the duty imposed upon it by the Supreme Court. The claim of West Virginia, he added, that the court had no authority to enforce its decree was one of far-reaching importance.

Attorney General Pollard contended that while the court had no power to lay a tax it did have power to compel a state legislature to lay a tax for the enforcement of its decrees. He said the court possessed power to issue amendments to compel municipal bodies to pay their obligations and that this power also extended to mandamus against states. He pointed out that the West Virginia legislature held the key to the state treasury and by turning that key it could develop a fund to satisfy the obligation. Therefore, he said, the court had clearly the right to compel the West Virginia legislature to lay a tax to satisfy the \$13,000,000 judgment in favor of Virginia.

ALMOST AN ECLIPSE.

Shortly before three o'clock today a great cloud, so black that the sun could not get through, rolled over Fairmont and at press time Main street was blazing with electric lights without whose light it would have been as dark as seven in the evening. No explanation was to be had for the unexpected and novel eclipse.

CHRISTNER SAID HE MEANT TO KILL, DECLARES WOMAN

Damaging Testimony Introduced in Trial This Morning.

LEE KING ON THE STAND

Admitted Beating Christner But Said Shaver Took No Part.

"He came running past my house with his gun and hollering, 'I'm going to kill Buckeye Shaver', and pretty soon he came back and said, 'I've killed Buckeye Shaver. I meant to kill him and I've done it. He'll never stomp my face off again!'"

Efforts of defendant's counsel in the trial of Hoy Christner this morning failed to shake the tale told above by Mrs. Lulu Bush, wife of a mine foreman at Monongah whose home is directly opposite the Christner residence.

Mrs. Bush's story was slightly shaken this afternoon when George Hall, who had been walking directly behind Christner as he came from his home toward Shaver's, declared that he had not heard Christner make any statements whatever. At press time Hall was on the stand telling again the story of how Christner shot Shaver as the latter walked fearlessly toward him disregarding orders to stop.

Roy Addison was the first witness called this morning but gave no material evidence. Lee King, whose appearance on the stand was much waited for, told his story to the jury this morning. Differing in no particular from the tale he has told constantly since the shooting, his testimony was of no great value to either side.

King, admitted beating Christner but declared emphatically that Shaver had no part in the beating but had only stood by and watched.

Clyde Satterfield, of Monongah, was examined, nothing important resulting.

Mrs. Bush was the last witness to take the stand this morning and her testimony was concluded only with the noon recess. The state will make every effort to get to the jury the importance of the statements as testified as having overheard Christner make.

Immediately on the convening, at 1:30, Walter Johnson, photographer, was sworn and testified as to the authenticity of the photographs made of the scene of the crime, evidence which was ruled out yesterday because unauthenticated.

George Hall, in the preliminary questioning, declared he had lived at Monongah nineteen or twenty years, but after studying for a minute and a half was unable to recall what county it is in.

The largest crowd that has been present in the circuit court room for the past year, was packed in this afternoon. Hundreds of Monongah and about the city made an audience that almost filled the big auditorium.

Christner, in a debonair white cap, strolled about the lobbies before court convened this afternoon, and while in the court room was seated beside his wife, taking a very great interest in everything that was going on.

The state is expected to call a number of witnesses before its case is completed.

City Hall Notes

The city Board of Affairs which has been in session since yesterday morning to select an engineer for the work of constructing bridges across the Monongahela river and the Coal Run river decided at noon today to adjourn to reconvene tomorrow morning after putting a few more hours' study on the matter.

The city police are hunting for an auto damaged slightly which either headed or backed into the residence of Dominick Baldara on Cleveland avenue tearing out part of the house at five o'clock this morning. When the damage was done there was no one around and the car doing it sped away before the occupants of the house could discover what had happened.

HE FOUGHT WITH CUSTER.

WHEELING, March 21.—Andrew P. Heaton aged 93, a veteran of the Civil war and a soldier under General Custer is dead at his home here. Heaton was one of the few survivors of Custer's famous band of Indian fighters.